year old, and has become so strong that it attempts to break its cage, the time for the ceremony is deemed to have come, and the great event of an Aino's life is about to take place. He first addresses long prayers to the gods and to the relations of the bear asking pardon for what he is about to do, and pleading that from the time the animal came into his possession he has showered favours on him, and has maintained him as long as possible; but he is poor, the bear is growing large, and he finds it impossible to support him any longer. He has therefore no resource but to slay him; and for this act, which is forced on him by inevitable necessity, he prays for forgiveness.

On arriving at the scene of the ceremony the visitor found about thirty persons, chiefly residents of the place, assembled, and dressed in their gala costumes, which consisted chiefly of old Japanese brocaded garments. From the commencement to the end *saké* played almost as prominent a part as the bear himself. The guests sat around the fire-place in the centre of the host's hut, and an offering was first made to the god of fire. This was done in this wise. The Ainos, who were all seated, raised their left hands, holding a drinking vessel, to their foreheads, while the palm of the right was also elevated slightly. A small stick lying across the cup was then dipped in the *saké* and the contents sprinkled on the floor to the fire-god, the stick being then waved three or four times over the cup. A formula was uttered by each person present, and the *saké* drank in long draughts, the stick being meanwhile employed in holding up the moustache. A similar ceremony then took place in front of the bear's cage. This was followed by a dance around the cage by the women and girls. Offerings of drink were then made as before to other gods, and finally the bear was taken out of his cage by three young men specially selected for the purpose. The animal was killed by pressing the throat firmly against a large block of wood. The body was then cleaned, and placed neatly on a mat, food and drink being laid before it, and ornaments of various kinds being placed on its ears, mouth, &c. Mats were spread around the bear, the guests took their seats on them, and the drinking commenced. This continued for some time, until the Ainos sank in a state of helpless intoxication on their mats. The women in another part of the village meantime amused themselves with various dances, which Dr. Scheube describes at length.

The following day, as a rule, the debauch is continued. The body of the bear is then cut up in such a manner that the hide remains attached to the head. The blood was collected in vessels and drank by the men. The liver was cut out and eaten raw; the rest of the flesh was distributed amongst the partakers of the feast. The writer states that although hardened in a certain sense to the sight of blood, he could not look without horror on the sight of the drunken crowd with their faces and bodies smeared with blood. The skull of the bear—stuffed with charms—is placed in a sacred place on the east side of the house, and the mouth is filled with bamboo-leaves. It is then always preserved and venerated as a sacred object.

## NOTES

MR. WILLIAM BOWMAN, LL.D., F.R.S., has been elected Honorary Secretary of the Royal Institution, and Dr. Warren De La Rue, F.R.S., Manager.

ON Monday the Royal Commissioners on Technical Education—Mr. B. Samuelson, M.P., Mr. Woodall, M.P., Prof. Roscoe, Mr. P. Magnus, Mr. Swire Smith, and Mr. Redgrave, secretary—visited Liverpool to inquire into technical science teaching. They met at the Free Library, and were furnished with information concerning its working by Sir James Picton. They afterwards visited several of the Board schools, and in the evening some of the science classes.

DR. P. L. SCLATER, the Secretary of the Zoological Society, will give the first of a course of four lectures on the Geographical Distribution of Animals, on Thursday next, February 16, and Mr. W. Watkiss Lloyd the first of a course of four lectures on the Iliad and the Odyssey, on Saturday, February 18, at the Royal Institution.

AT the comparatively early age of fifty-two years Major Sir William Palliser, C.B., M.P., died very suddenly from heart disease on Saturday afternoon. Sir William Palliser was universally known through the projectiles that bear his name, and for many practical applications of science in both offensive and defensive armament.

KÖNIG'S great tonometer is, we observe, announced for sale. It would be a great pity if the opportunity of acquiring this magnificent and absolutely unique collection of standard tuning-forks for the nation were thrown away. The collection was one of the finest things exhibited in Philadelphia, where it still lies, the project to purchase it for the University of Pennsylvania having fallen through. If it cannot be acquired for the national collection, of which a nucleus exists at South Kensington, surely it might be thought worth while to purchase it for either the Cavendish or the Clarendon Laboratory. But the nation that can give two thousand pounds for the plaster cast of the porch of a Spanish church can surely afford to buy the masterpiece of the master-maker of modern acoustical instruments, especially at the moderate price asked.

UPON the Island of Euboea fossil human remains are reported to have been recently discovered. The Greek Government has had the objects in question conveyed to Athens, where their scientific examination is now ordered.

THE February number of the *Deutsche Rundschau* will contain an article by Prof. Häckel, of Jena, the celebrated evolutionist, on his scientific researches in India, where he has been travelling since last autumn and still is.

IMPORTANT steps have been taken towards the execution of the French Metropolitan Railway, the principal technical difficulty being the crossing of the Seine. The first line to be constructed will originate from St. Cloud, and have its terminus at Vincennes. Its underground run will begin at the rue de Rome; other stations will be at the Opera, Bourse, Arts-et-Métiers, Place de la République, and Place de la Bastille. The track from the Place de la République to the Place de la Bastille is not yet decided upon, owing to the difficulty of crossing the Canal St. Martin's. The work will commence with the opening of a new street in the most densely-crowded part of Central Paris.

A "GEOGRAPHISCHE GESELLSCHAFT" was founded last month in the University town of Jena, under the presidency of Dr. Schmid, one of the professors. Their *Mittheilungen* is to be a quarterly one, and is to chronicle the geographical and ethnological researches of missionaries. The first part is to appear towards the end of March. These societies are springing up all over France so fast that their very names slip one's memory, but in this country we are still content with one, no more having been heard of the feeble attempt made to start a Commercial Geographical Society at Manchester.

FROM the *Colonies and India* we learn that valuable and important discoveries of copper and iron ore have been made at

Tamworth in New South Wales, and that at Tamora the diamond drill has discovered water at a depth of 400 feet, the site of the boring being on a rocky hill 100 feet above the alluvial flat, on which the town is situated.

THE French Government has instituted a commission of inquiry into the actual position of working-men engaged in the industrial arts. The commission, composed of members of both houses of the French Parliament, engineers of the public service, and leading manufacturers, has held already two sittings in the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers, where a special room has been fitted up for examining witnesses. The depositions are taken by shorthand writers, and will be published at full length, to support the recommendation of the committee.

WE are informed that the great Danish work entitled "Icones Floræ Danicæ," whose completion has been long anxiously desired by botanists, will be ready for publication in the course of 1883. The work, of which the 51st number has appeared, will in its entirety consist of fifty-four numbers, three of these being supplementary parts devoted to the consideration of Swedish and Norwegian plants not included in the flora of Denmark. Subscribers, or intending purchasers, should apply without delay for the copies they require to Prof. Joh. Lange, or to Messrs. Lehman and Stage, Copenhagen, as it is proposed to break up the plates as soon as the last number has been struck off. An exception will, however, be made in regard to a few of the plates, in view of the possibility of their being used in the production of three other works, which the publishers and editors of the "Icones Floræ Danicæ" propose to issue, provided a sufficient number of subscribers can be secured. These works are: (1) "Icones Floræ Grœnlandicæ," with letterpress and 330 plates; (2) "Arboretum Scandinavicum," including the indigenous trees of Denmark, with 160 plates; (3) Icones Plantarum Officinalium Scandinaviæ," with 300 plates.

M. PAUL BERT, before the resignation of the Gambetta Ministry, had instructed M. Dumas, the Permanent Secretary of the French Academie des Sciences, to draw up a list of scientific men who have died or received injuries while making experiments or researches for the advancement of science. Pensions, it was proposed, should be given to the widows and families of those who had fallen victims to their scientific ardour, whilst those whose injuries have not been fatal will receive substantial aid. We trust the change of Ministry will not affect this laudable proposal.

M. PLATEAU lately sought to estimate the distance to which the moon is mentally referred in the sky, by getting some one, after looking at that body, to project the accidental image on a wall, then move to or from the wall till the diameter of the image seemed equal to that of the moon; and he obtained the distance 51 metres. Again, Prof. Thirion, of Namur, got twelve students to draw on a black board a circle the size of the moon as it appeared to them. The circles varied from 19 to 79 ctm., mean 32 ctm., and it was inferred that the moon was mentally referred, on the average, to about 35 metres. Dr. Charpentier, by still another method, obtains the value 12·9 metres, so that there are great differences, and in any case the distance is much less than might have been thought. M. Plateau has further applied accidental images to finding the distance to which the imaginary celestial vault is referred. A spot in a white square of paper on a dark ground was looked at steadily at the side of an open window for twenty seconds, then the person looked skywards, above the opposite houses, then to one of these houses, and compared the sizes of the accidental images in either case. The sides of the two were by one person estimated as 5 to 6, by another as 4 to 5; and the width of street being about 30 metres, the distance assigned to the celestial vault is inferred to be in one case 30, in the other 29 metres. A similar result was got by night.

MOST encouraging to any, who have hitherto worked unsuccessfully towards establishing a Free Library, should be the picture of past and present which is given in the First Annual Report of that institution at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The failure of the first effort in 1854, the cold feeling indicated by the very small number of votes against and for the adoption of the Free Libraries Act in 1872, the further delay till 1878 and 1880, contrast strangely with the handsome new building; the large proportion of borrowers to the population, the appetite for reading among these borrowers causing the large circulation, and the 23,000 well-selected and well-catalogued books (see NATURE, vol. xxiii. p. 262) which this report can boast of. The wisdom of the Newcastle committee in devoting money as well a labour to the purpose of thoroughly well doing this work of cataloguing is confirmed by the sale of 6000 such catalogues at 1*s.* each. The importance of the Juvenile Library comes out strongly also, nearly half the borrowers (4413) being under twenty-one years of age, and the turn-over of books being by far the greatest in that department. An immense work is being done by this means, and there must be room for much more power, being devoted profitably to the production of these influential works. This library is fortunate in its large spaces for stowing away Blue Books, Transactions, and newspapers, which no public library should be without, yet which fill up so much space; in its arrangements for home binding; it is fortunate in the fact that its 1*d.* rate brings in over 2800*l.* a year, and we hope that under the new Act to be brought in next Session, it will be fortunate in getting more.

IN a recent number of *Naturen*, Hr. Bergh has drawn attention to the powerful agency exerted by ice in severing rocks, of which he gives a striking instance occurring on the Aalesund in West Norway, where a low ledge rising out of the fjord is all that remains of a once extensive fjæld promontory, which in the year 1717 was suddenly blown up and precipitated into the water by the force of the ice within the interstices of the stone. The winter had been mild, and during a rapid thaw a considerable stream had welled up from the ice-covered summit of the fjæld, and carried its waters into every crevice of the rock, when a sudden change of wind brought about a sharp frost, which turned the descending waters of the newly-formed stream into ice, arresting their course within the interstices of the rock. The result was the explosion of the entire mass of the fjæld below the outbreak of the stream, and its projection from a height of more than 1500 feet into the neighbouring fjord, which engulfed the whole of the promontory, with its cultivated fields and farmstead. Simultaneously with the disappearance of the land below the surface of the fjord, a huge mass of waters was propelled against the opposite shore, carrying with it rusty anchors, boat-rafters, and numerous other objects which had long lain at the bottom. The disturbance extended a mile beyond the point at which the land was submerged, and the waters in retreating carried with them a wooden church which had stood fifty feet above the fjord, besides sweeping away all the fishing-boats for a distance of two and a half miles. Before this occurrence, which was attended by loss of life to about a score of persons, the headland had been much resorted to on account of the halibut, which abounded in the neighbourhood, but since that period the fish has never returned, a circumstance which, according to local popular belief, is due to the covering up by the infallen rock of certain submarine cavities and springs frequented by the fish.

A MOST interesting experiment has taken place at the Comptoir d'Escompte of Paris, one of the leading bank-

ing establishments, in its new building, rue Bergere 16. Not less than eighty electric regulators, and a large number of Swan lamps, have been illuminated by Grenet's battery. The illumination will continue every night after a very few days, when the new offices will be occupied by the staff of the Company. One of the peculiarities of this system is that the offices are illuminated by the Jaspar reflecting system, but it is the ceiling itself which is used as a reflector. The effect is splendid. The large hall is illuminated from the top by sixteen Serrin and Siemens' regulators. The arc is concealed by a ceiling of coloured lights. Swan lamps are used for the staircases, and the chambers where the valuables are kept. All the offices are connected with the head office by telephones, pneumatic tubes, and telegraphs. The battery is controlled by electrical agency. The fifty elements are placed in the upper part of the edifice as well as the tanks for keeping the liquid. When it is used it is collected in another tank placed in the lower part, from which it is carried by special carriages and brought to a special workshop at some distance. In this workshop the zinc is regenerated, as well as the sulphuric acid and the sesquioxide of chromium is changed again into chromate. The cycle of regeneration is complete, and we may give details as to its working. The suppression of reflectors and the use of the ceiling in their stead was devised by M. Corrayer, the architect of the Comptoir d'Escompte.

THE water of Lake Maggiore, which it has been proposed to convey to Milan, has lately been examined by Prof. Maggi by M. Certe's method, the samples being taken at 65 metres depth, and about 400 m. from the banks. Forty-eight hours after a little osmic acid was added, there was obtained a small deposit of dead organisms of bacterian form, none of which had appeared in the microscope. He found a solution of chloride of palladium to have also the effect of hardening those small organisms and so making them opaque and microscopically visible. Small irregular masses of protoplasmic nature, capable of taking colour from a magenta solution, were also thrown down. Prof. Maggi further treated the water of the lake with various colouring agents. Hematoxiline, methyl-violet, magenta, and Lione blue gave the best results. While the same small organisms and protoplasmic masses were manifested, only the latter, curiously, took colour. In spring water of Valcuvia, and rain water, microbes like those in the lake, not visible in a microscope of 800 diameters, were revealed by the colouring and hardening reagents. Prof. Maggi proposes to call these organisms *Aphaneri*, as distinguished from the bacteria and microbes, which, without reagents, are visible in the microscope (*Phaneri*), and among which are agents of infection, and which take colour from methyl-violet, magenta, &c. The Aphaneri, he thinks, are probably harmless.

Among the new subjects for prize competition announced by the *Reale Istituto Lombardo* we note the following: Illustrate with new facts of pathological anatomy and experimental physiology the doctrine of cortical sensory centres (for 31 May, 1884, prize 2000 lire); Monography of magneto electric and dynamo-electric machines, comprising the history and theory, and indicating the merits and defects of the different types with regard to their various industrial applications (for 31 December, 1883, prize 4000 lire); History of the life and works of Leonardo da Vinci (for 31 March 1886, prize 5000 lire); Geognostic, chemical, and physical study of the agrarian soil of a portion of Lombardy (for 31 May, 1883, prize 1500 lire and gold medal 500 lire). Further particulars will be found in the *Rendiconti* of the Institute

THE Birmingham Town Hall was crammed from ceiling to floor on Sunday night to hear a lecture on Natural History delivered by the Rev. W. Tuckwell, at the invitation of the Sunday Lecture Society. The subject was a "Day on the Hills," and the delight of the rough audience was unbounded at the wonders from bog and hill-top, pond and stone-quarry, revealed to them by the lecturer, who, without "preaching," gave more than once a religious turn to the discourse. Hymns were sung and sacred music performed before and after the lecture. The local papers point out that of the 3000 and upwards present the great majority were persons who do not usually attend church or chapel.

WE learn that Dr. Andrew Clark has consented to preside at a lecture on the "Dress of the Period," to be given by Mr. Frederick Treves, of the London Hospital, on Saturday afternoon, February 26, at the Kensington Town Hall, at 4 o'clock. The lecture is given under the auspices of the National Health Society.

THE Lake of Constance is now lower than at any time since 1805. At Hoernlin, on the Swiss side, some interesting Lacustrine habitations have been laid bare, and several valuable finds of nephrite axes and other objects have been made.

BEFORE leaving, the Minister of Public Instruction, M. Paul Bert, signed a decree establishing the Popular Observatory, which we have mentioned already in our Notes. The report was drawn by a Commission composed of Admiral Mouchez, M. Flammarion, and others.

M. FLAMMARION will start, in the month of March, a monthly astronomical paper, to be published by Gauthier Villars. Each number will be profusely illustrated.

ON Monday last the cuckoo was heard in the policies surrounding Halleath, Lochwaben, Dumfriesshire, the weather on that day being remarkably bright and warm.

WE have on our table the following books:—Elementary Physiography, by Andrew Findlater (Chambers); Original Gravity, by J. A. Nettleton (Lampray); Market Garden Husbandry, by W. H. Ablett (Chapman and Hall); Sahara und Sudan, by G. Nachtigal (Paul Parey, Berlin); The Honey Ants and Occident Ants, by McCook; The Water Supply of England and Wales, by C. E. de Rance (Stanford); Mountain Life in Algeria, by Edgar Barclay (Kegan Paul and Co.); Between the Amazon and Andes, by Mrs. Mulhall (Stanford); Vignettes from Nature, by Grant Allen (Chatto and Windus); The Story of our Museum, by the Rev. H. Housman (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge); Year-Book of Photography, 1882, by H. Baden Pritchard (Piper and Carter); Outlines of Physiography, by G. Thom (J. Thin); Sounds and their Relations, by A. M. Bell (Trübner); Philosophy of Self-Consciousness, by P. F. Fitzgerald (Trübner); Consumption, by De Lacy Evans (Baillière, Tyndall, and Co.); Report of the Lightning Rod Conference (Spon); Sparks from a Geologist's Hammer, by Alex. Winchell (Trübner); Lessons on Form, by R. P. Wright (Longman); Myth and Science, by Tito Vignoli (Kegan Paul and Co.); Practical Microscopy, by George E. Davis (David Bogue); Aristotle on the Parts of Animals, translated by W. Ogle, M.D. (Kegan Paul and Co.); Transit of Venus, 1874, by Sir G. B. Airy (Stationery Office); An Old Chapter of the Geological Record, by King and Rowney (Van Voorst); Dental Anatomy, by C. S. Tomes (Churchill); Tunis, Land and People, by Chevalier de Hesse-Wartegg (Chatto and Windus).

WE are asked by the author to state that at the end of the third paragraph of the article on "The Recent Weather" in NATURE, vol. xxv. p. 285, the barometric pressures inadvertently quoted as 30·093, 30·079, and 30·076 inches, should obviously have been 30·930, 30·790, and 30·760 inches.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Sykes's Monkey (*Cercopithecus albigularis* δ) from East Africa, presented by Mr. H. Gunning; a Ring-tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*) from Madagascar, presented by Capt. M.

P. Webster; two Badgers (*Meles taxus*) from Russia, presented by Mr. C. R. Meltzer; a Cinereous Sea Eagle (*Haliaetus albicilla*), European, presented by the Hon. M. Finch Hatton; two Common Barn Owls (*Strix flammea*), British, presented by Master Golden; a Mountain Ka-Ka (*Nestor notabilis*) from New Zealand, deposited; two Snow Buntings (*Plectrophanes nivalis*), two Mountain Linnets (*Linota flavirostris*), a Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*), British, purchased.

## *OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN*

THE OBSERVATORY OF MELBOURNE.—The sixteenth annual report to the Board of Visitors of this Observatory has been issued by the Director Mr. Ellery. The staff now consists of the Government Astronomer, the Chief Assistant, Mr. White, and three junior assistants. Mr. White takes charge of the meridional work, and on Mr. Turner devolves the observation, drawing, and photography in connection with the great telescope, and obtaining daily sun-pictures with the photo-heliograph. The large telescope almost monopolises the services of a workman. The actual work with this instrument during the year ending June 30, 1881, to which the Report refers, was performed on sixty-eight nights, twenty-four of which were devoted to lunar photography, unfavourable weather, or bright moonlight is stated to have interfered on 125 nights, while eighty-two nights were occupied with the great influx of visitors to the Observatory, during the continuance of the Melbourne International Exhibition. Twenty-two nebulæ of Sir John Herschel's Catalogue were observed and sketched, with a new one, preceding No. 3705 by 1m. 7s., and 4′ 30″ south. The majority of the nebulæ observed agree well with Herschel's description, but Nos. 4502, 4510, and 5012 do not accord with his measures; 3430 is found to be much more suddenly condensed in the centre, and 3734 is much fainter than he describes. The nebula surrounding $\eta$ Argûs was carefully compared on three occasions with drawings of 1875, but no decided change could be detected. During the year, 175 photographs of the sun were obtained showing a marked increase of spots and disturbances of the surface. The magnetical and meteorological work and progress of intercolonial meteorology are also subjects of the report. The Government had approved of the purchase of a new transit-circle more adequate to the requirements of the day than the existing instrument, and the necessary amount had been placed upon the estimates.

THE OBSERVATORY OF CORDOBA.—Dr. B. A. Gould, writing on December 22, mentions that the first volume of the Cordoba astronomical observations was finished, and he expected to forward it to Europe during the ensuing week. A meteorological volume would follow immediately.

THE GREAT COMET OF 1881.—The following places depend upon the last ellipse calculated by MM. Dunér and Engström of Lund:—

| | At 12h. Berlin M.T. R.A. h. m. s. | Decl. ° ′ |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. 11 | 0 10 15 | +55 2·8 |
| 13 | 0 14 24 | 54 57·6 |
| 15 | 0 18 30 | 54 52·9 |
| 17 | 0 22 34 | 54 48·5 |
| 19 | 0 26 36 | 54 44·6 |
| 21 | 0 30 37 | 54 41·0 |
| 23 | 0 34 35 | 54 37·8 |
| 25 | 0 38 32 | 54 35·1 |
| 27 | 0 42 27 | 54 32·7 |
| March 1 | 0 46 20 | 54 30·6 |

On the first date, the comet's distance from the earth will be 3·76, and on the last date 4·14, the earth's mean distance from the sun being taken as unity.

PROBLEMATICAL SUN-SPOTS.—As a somewhat similar case to that recorded by Sir William Thomson in last week's NATURE, we may recall an observation by Lichtenberg on November 19, 1762, described in a letter from his brother in Zach's *Allgemeine geographische Ephemeriden*, 1798, p. 260; the observation had been mentioned in Götting's *Taschenbuche* for 1787, p. 121. In Lichtenberg's diary he had entered the particulars as follows: On November 19, 1762, as, in company with a friend, v. Pöllnitz of Reinheim, he was journeying from Wurzburg towards Erlangen early in the morning, one of great cold and thick vapours, their attention was directed at sunrise, by the conductor of the vehicle, to something upon the sun's disk; he had not wholly risen in an unimpeded view, was of a blood-red colour, and, as usual, seemed magnified. Under these circumstances Lichtenberg says he saw with the naked eye, to his no small surprise, a dark, well-defined spot, the diameter of which he estimated at more than a twelfth of the apparent diameter of the sun: "etwas unter dem Mittelpunkte gegen den nördlichen Rand." It is added "Die vollkommen runde Gestalt und der völlig reine Ausschnitt liessen auch beim ersten Anblick schon etwas Anderes als ein gemeinen Sonnenfleck von seltener Grösse vermuthen. Er dauerte auch nicht lange, so sah ich deutlich, dass ich mich in meiner Meinung nicht geirrt hatte, denn der Körper hatte seine Stelle merklich verändert." The journey to Erlangen was hastened in the hope of arriving there before the egress of the spot, and on reaching the town Lichtenberg says he hurried to Prof. Arnold to secure confirmation of his observation, but although immediate steps with that object were taken, the body was found to have passed off the sun, which appeared round and spotless.

The brother who communicated these details to Zach, considered that in conjunction with a diagram, it followed that the object had described a chord of nearly 70° on the solar disk in about three hours; the direction being from the north limb towards the south.

## *GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES*

THE French African traveller, M. de Sanderval, has returned to Paris from his expedition to Timbo. His principal object was to find the route which European travellers have searched for for more than a century, and which is destined eventually to become the main route by which civilisation will progress from the coast to the Upper Niger and the Soudan. During his first journey in 1879 M. de Sanderval obtained permission to construct a railway from the Iman of Timbo and grant of a district of 12,000 square kilometres. The maps and notes of the traveller will be presented to the Academy by M. de Lesseps.

AT the meeting of the Geographical Society on Monday last, Mr. Cuthbert E. Peek read a paper on the journey across Iceland which he made last summer in company with Mr. E. Delmar Morgan and Mr. J. Coles. Mr. Delmar Morgan afterwards gave an account of an excursion which he made by himself to Askja, the only Englishmen who have visited it before having been Messrs. Watts and Leck. The interest in Mr. Peek's expedition centres almost entirely in the fact that he had been entirely trained to the use of instruments, &c., at the Geographical Society under Mr. Coles, the instructor, and the result shows that the system adopted is useful and effective.

IN the Geographical Society's *Proceedings* this month, the only papers are those read at the meeting of January 16, and alluded to in our issue of January 26. The map on which the routes of Mr. Thomson and the Rev. C. Maples are laid down, is a useful contribution to the geography of East Africa. A note on Mr. O'Neill's journey in the interior of Mozambique dissipates all hopes which may have been formed that he had visited the snow-clad mountains there. Mr. O'Neill appears to have reached a point within sight of the lofty peak Namuli, said by natives to be capped with snow, but owing to clouds he could not verify this statement. Much useful information will be found collected together under the head of Père Duparquet's journeys in Ovampo-land. The remainder of this issue is largely devoted to foreign societies, among the reports of which will be found authoritative accounts of Dr. Stecker's work in Abyssinia, and Mr. Poliakof's in the Island of Saghalien.

IT is stated that Col. Prjevalsky intends shortly to start on another expedition to Tibet, and we hope that this time he may at length succeed in reaching Lhassa.

COL. VENIUKOF has furnished the French Geographical Society with some notes of Dr. Regel's new journey in Central Asia, principally in Karategin and Darwaz. His explorations commenced on the banks of the Macha, near the Zarafshan Glacier, whence he went first to Garm, the capital of Karategin, traversing the mountains by the Pakshif defile, and descending into the valley of the Kizil-su by the little river Sor-bokh. From Garm he went to Kela-Khumb, traversing on the way the valley of the River Wakish or Wakhia, and the Kamchirak, Sagridesht, and Khubu-rabat passes, the first of which is 9500 feet above the sea. Further on he followed the valley of the Oxus as far as the confluence of the Warij, which the natives